

COMMUNITY—BASED PROGRAMS

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

Presentation Overview

2

- Importance of Community-Based Programs
- Improper Program Type Coding: Why Try Case Study
- Tips for Proper Program Categorization
- ISP Program Categorizing Changes



3

Community-Based Programs

What's the big deal?

Research on Community-Based Programs

4

- Community-based programs generally have lower recidivism rates than large state facilities.
- It's more cost-effective to utilize community-based interventions than incarceration.

Source: Springer, David W. "Transforming Juvenile Justice in Texas: A Framework for Action." School of Social Work. University of Texas at Austin. <http://www.utexas.edu/ssw/faculty/springer/>.

Importance of CB Programs (cont.)

5

Determine Effectiveness of Treatment

- Determine re-offense rate
- Determine TYC commitment rates

Other Uses for Program Information

- Number of juveniles participating in specific types of programs
- Establish the need for more specific programs

Texas Trends with CB Programs

6

- Slowly shifting emphasis from incarceration to community-based programs.
- 80th Legislature: Misdemeanor offenders ineligible for TYC commitment. New funding for intensive community-based programs (Grants U & X).
- 81st Legislature: Funding cut for state youth lockups. New funding for expanded community-based diversion programs & services (Grant C).

How do we know Texas' Programs are working?

7

- Performance measures
 - ▣ “A measure of how well services are delivered by an agency or program. Performance measures address issues such as the degree to which services are timely, cost-effective, or *comply with standards*. ”¹
- Legislature-set performance measures (Grant C & other grants)
 - ▣ Total juveniles served
 - ▣ Total completed program
 - ▣ Recidivism within 1, 2, and 3 years

¹ Promising Practices Network. Glossary. <http://www.promisingpractices.net/glossary.asp#program>.

8

Improper Program Type Coding

A case study of Why Try

The Why Try Program

9

- “The Why Try Program is a simple, hands-on curriculum which helps youth overcome their challenges and improve *outcomes* in the areas of truancy, behavior, and academics.
- Why Try teaches critical social and emotional principles to youth using a series of pictures, which each teach a principal, such as resisting peer-pressure, or that decisions have consequences. The visual components are then reinforced by music and physical activities.”

The Why Try Program (continued)

10

Why Try is a cognitive-behavioral program.

- Cognitive behavioral treatment (CBT) seeks to correct an individual's faulty perceptions of themselves and/or the world around them. This type of therapy provides skills individuals can use to monitor their *thought* patterns and correct their *behavior* as situations unfold around them.
- CBT emphasis on acquiring new intrapersonal and interpersonal skills and community responsibility.
- CBT program uses a manual treatment curricula.
- CBT employs techniques like modeling and role playing.

Let's pretend...

11

- Let's pretend TJPC doesn't know anything about Why Try. A legislator asks us to give her some quick facts on this program.
- What would happen if TJPC retrieved program information on Why Try, but only used Program Type = Cognitive Behavioral to retrieve this information?

Why Try: Comparing Complete & Inaccurate Records

12

Why Try Facts

- 40 Texas juvenile probation departments using Why Try
- Why Try is a cognitive-behavioral program

CASEWORKER

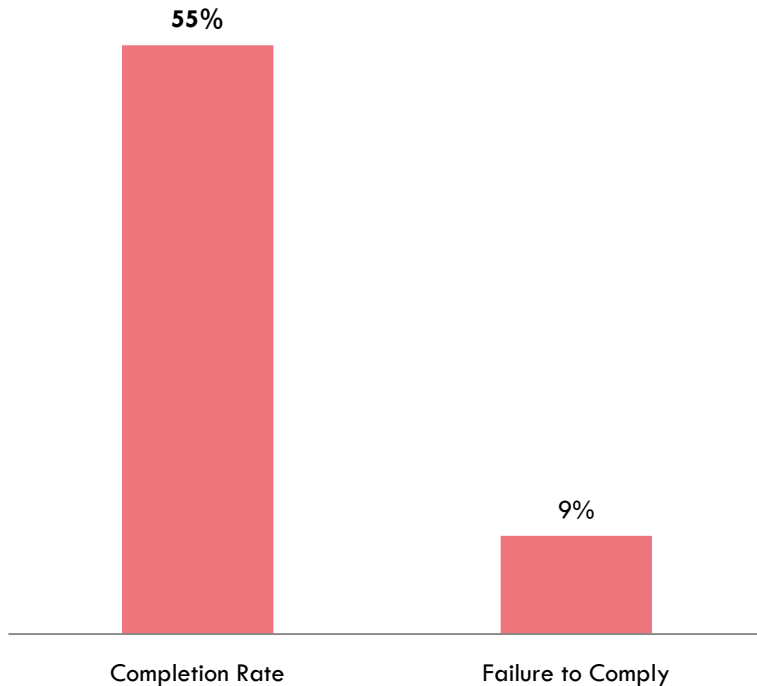
- CASEWORKER shows 16 depts. using Why Try
- Why Try coded as program type:
 - ▣ Anger Mgmt.
 - ▣ Cognitive Behavioral
 - ▣ Counseling Services
 - ▣ Experiential Skills
 - ▣ Life Skills
 - ▣ Runaway/Truancy
 - ▣ Other

(continued)

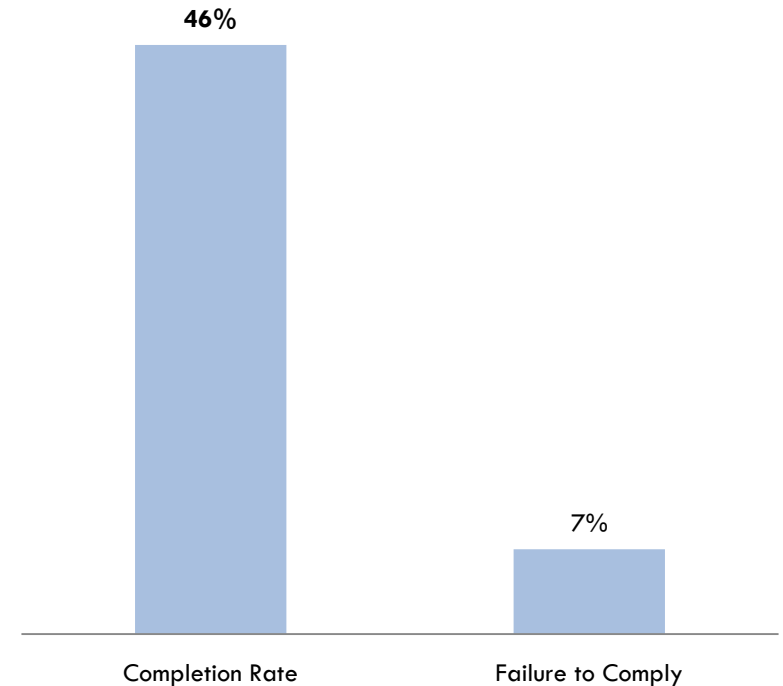
Why Try: Comparing Complete & Inaccurate Records

13

**Program records categorized with
all 7 program types in previous screen**



**Program records categorized as
“cognitive behavioral” only**



*Remember, total juveniles who completed the program is a legislatively-mandated performance measure!

Information based on Why Try data in CW for FY 2007 – FY 2009.

(continued)

Why Try:

Comparing Complete & Inaccurate Records

14

Total Juveniles Served

1,168

875

Prgm records categorized with all 7 program types in slide 12.

Prgm records categorized as cognitive behavioral only.

15 Tips for Proper Program Categorization

What is a Program?

16



*“A comprehensive set of practices that are designed to achieve one or more desired indicators/outcomes for children, families or communities. Any program may use a number of practices, **and any particular practice can be combined with others to make up a program.**”¹*

¹ Promising Practices Network. Glossary. <http://www.promisingpractices.net/glossary.asp#program>.

Tips for Proper Program Categorization

17

- Identify the program's purpose.
- If the program borrows practices from other programs, choose the program's primary purpose.
- Do not enter two or more program records for one program that uses practices found in other programs.
 - For example, Why Try is a cognitive behavioral program (primary purpose) that also address anger management and life skills, and uses experiential education activities.
 - Only enter 1 program record and code it as program type Cognitive Behavioral.

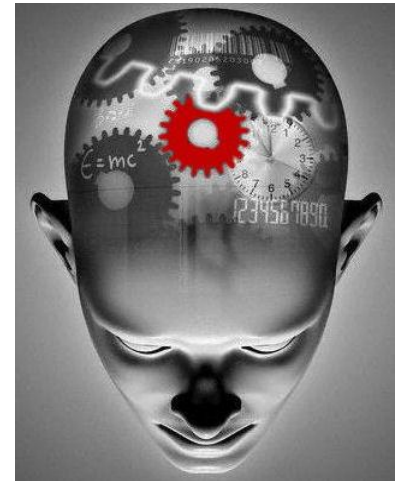


Photo reprinted from:
<http://www.ufodigest.com/news/0808/emotionalabduction.html>

Tips for Proper Program Categorization

18

- Ask the program's creator, administrator, or the chief probation officer how program should be coded.
- Use the program type descriptions available in the [CRM](#) (pg 112).
 - ▣ Updated list coming soon!
- Explore the Web site of the [OJJDP's Model Program Guide](#).
 - ▣ Search by Program Type or
 - ▣ Use drop-down menus located at the top for more detailed descriptions and background.



Coding ISP Programs

19

- *Sometimes*, you may have to enter 2 program records when a child is in an Intensive Supervision Program (ISP).
- Enter a program record for ISP
- Enter a separate program record *if* the child is attending a full-fledged, *comprehensive* program as part of ISP.
- Example 1:
 - A child is in ISP. All children in ISP must attend Why Try.
 - Enter 1 program record for ISP & 1 record for Why Try.

Coding ISP Programs (continued)

20

□ Example 2:

- A child is in ISP. All children in ISP are placed on an electronic monitoring device.
- Would you enter 2 program records?

Coding ISP Programs (continued)

21

Example 2:

- A child is in ISP. All children in ISP are placed on an electronic monitoring device.
- Would you enter 2 program records? **NO**
 - Enter 1 program record for ISP.
 - Electronic monitoring does not have a *comprehensive set of practices* to make it a program. It's more of a sanction, but we have no other way of tracking electronic monitoring, so we've stuck it in programs (for now).



Heads Up: New Program Registry

22



- ❑ Sunset Bill (HB 3689) requires TJPC to collect descriptions of **each** program **and** service offered in your department.
- ❑ Must also describe the different components of **each** program or service.
- ❑ Departments will receive survey in early 2010 to capture this information.

More Program Info Resources

23

- Check out the following Power Point presentations from previous conferences for more info on:
 - ▣ Driving Me Crazy: Common Data Problems and Errors (2008)
 - ▣ Improving Program Information (2007)

Thank you for your attention!

C. Yvonne Montejano

Research & Statistics Division

Texas Juvenile Probation Commission

Tel. (512) 424-6695